

Commander's Call Topics



Feb. 18, 2011

FROM AIR FORCE SENIOR LEADERS

[Air Force undersecretary lauds deployed Airmen, addresses force management](#)

Undersecretary of the Air Force Erin Conaton acknowledged the competence, professionalism and pride of deployed Airmen she witnessed during a visit to the 379th Air Expeditionary Wing in Southwest Asia. *"When one considers the awesome coalition air-power capability and effectiveness that emanates from this location, it is truly impressive and inspiring."* She also discussed the importance of regional partners and force management.

CURRENT ISSUES

[Air Force 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' repeal training detailed](#)

Training will begin soon for Airmen in anticipation of the repeal of the law and policy commonly known as "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." This training will help Airmen understand what is expected in a post-repeal environment.

[Efficiencies, balance main focuses of FY12 budget](#)

Combat capabilities and balance will remain focal points in the Air Force's portion of the president's fiscal 2012 budget. The total Air Force budget request for FY12 is \$166.3 billion, down from \$170.8 billion in FY11. The largest portion of the decrease from FY11 to FY12 is a \$4.4 billion reduction in overseas contingency operations.

[Adjustments put F-35 on track](#)

The Defense Department's joint strike fighter program is on track to field the F-35 Lightning II in fiscal 2016. Although changes made to the program in January extended flight testing and slowed development by about a year at an additional cost of \$4.6 billion, the program has made progress over the past year. The fiscal 2012 defense budget request submitted this week has little effect on the program.

[Gates welcomes House vote against extra F-35 engine](#)

The House of Representatives voted 233-199 to strip funds for the extra engine for the F-35 Lightning II from the FY11 defense spending bill. The bill still must go to the Senate, where engine funding could be added back.

PERSONNEL ISSUES

[Stop loss pay application window closing March 4](#)

The deadline for eligible members or legally designated beneficiaries to apply for Retroactive Stop Loss Special Pay is coming to a close March 4. For more information or to file a claim, go to www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/stoploss. Applicants who were serving in the Reserve or Guard at the time of stop loss can go to the Air Reserve Personnel Center website at <https://arpc.afrc.af.mil/vPC-GR/>.

[Air Force officials warn: 'Spice' harmful to health, career](#)

Marketed and sold as incense, and closely resembling potpourri, spice, also known as K2, skunk, or fake marijuana, is among many "designer drugs" banned under Department of Defense directive 1010-3.4 and Air Force Instruction 44-120. Air Force leaders want to send a clear message about the health and career gambles associated with the drug, as indicated by the service's zero tolerance policy on illegal substance use or possession.

[Joint Women's Leadership Symposium offers leadership development opportunities](#)

Women from all branches of the Armed Forces will have the opportunity to learn leadership skills and network at the [Joint Women's Leadership Symposium](#) March 15 and 16 in San Diego, Calif. Themed *"Connect. Empower. Succeed,"* this year's symposium will offer women from all service branches an opportunity to focus on leadership development while also highlighting the achievements of women leaders on the front lines around the globe.

DOD program offers leadership development opportunities

Department of Defense officials seek active-duty officers to participate in the 2012 Executive Leadership Development Program beginning in September. This program is designed for officers who have demonstrated strong leadership, commitment to public service, integrity and who have an interest in moving into senior management positions. Applications must be submitted by May 31. For more information on ELDP, visit the [Air Force Personnel Services](#) website.

Opportunities available in financial management

Air Force line officers applying for the Financial Management Leadership Program must submit their nominations to the Air Force Personnel Center by March 3. The four-year program specializes in Air Force leadership development by providing an opportunity for line officers outside of the 65F financial management career specialty a chance to gain experience as comptroller squadron commanders. For details, visit the [Air Force Personnel Services](#) website.

GUARD AND RESERVE

ANG director: Equal opportunity is critical downrange

"Our service members in the National Guard and Reserve are indeed our most valuable asset," said Lt. Gen. Harry M. Wyatt III, Air National Guard director. "As leaders, we owe them our very best efforts, and it cannot be with closed minds that we undertake this endeavor. We cannot meet mission success without the expertise and dedication of our equal opportunity specialists and advisers."

FAMILY, HEALTH AND SAFETY

DOD officials ask service members to kiss the spit goodbye

Using smokeless tobacco - spit, dip, chew, snus, etc. - can cause a variety of serious health problems. Department of Defense and TRICARE officials want military personnel to participate in the Great American Spit Out on Feb. 24. DOD Quit Tobacco--Make Everyone Proud campaign officials at www.ucanquit2.org are focusing this month on helping those who spit and chew tobacco to develop a personalized quit plan.

FINANCES AND EDUCATION

Deadline Feb. 22 for scholarship applications

Applications for the 2011 Scholarships for Military Children program must arrive at a commissary by Feb. 22. Scholarship applications are available in commissaries and online at <http://www.commissaries.com>. Applications are also available at <http://www.militaryscholar.org>. At least one \$1,500 scholarship will be awarded at every commissary with qualified applicants.

RESOURCES

AF.mil

<http://www.af.mil>

Airman magazine

<http://www.airmanonline.af.mil/>

Air Force Community

<http://www.afcommunity.af.mil/>

Air Force Outreach

<http://www.afoutreach.af.mil/>

Military OneSource

<http://www.militaryonesource.com/>

Military HOMEFRONT

<http://www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil/>

Air Force Personnel Center

<http://gum.afpc.randolph.af.mil/>
<http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/>

Air Reserve Personnel Center

<http://www.arpc.afrc.af.mil/>

Department of Defense

<http://www.defense.gov>

Department of Defense News

<http://www.defenselink.mil>

TRICARE

<http://www.tricare.mil>

U.S. Government Web site

<http://www.firstgov.gov/>

Employment Opportunities

www.usajobs.com

www.nafjobs.org

AIR FORCE HERITAGE TO HORIZONS

Feb. 21 – Washington's Birthday is celebrated the third Monday of February. It is also known as Presidents' Day, in honor of both Presidents Washington and Lincoln, whose birthdays are Feb. 22 and Feb. 12, respectively.

This Week in Air Force History

Feb. 20, 1944 – Staff Sgt. Archibald Mathies refused to bailout of his crew's crippled B-17 Flying Fortress aircraft with an unconscious crewman aboard. He died while attempting to land, and was posthumously given the Medal of Honor.

Feb. 22, 1977 – Nine women became security specialists at Grand Forks AFB, N.D. They were the first women in the Air Force to be armed with a primary mission to defend the security of the base.

Feb. 24, 1967 – Capt. Hilliard A. Wilbanks attacked a large body of Viet Cong who had ambushed a smaller force of South Vietnamese rangers. Captain Wilbanks sacrificed his life to protect the withdrawing rangers and was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor.

Feb. 24, 1969 – An AC-47 Spooky gunship on which Airman 1st Class John L. Levitow served was struck by an enemy mortar shell. Although seriously wounded, he ejected a smoking flare to prevent the aircraft from exploding and was awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions.

For more information on Air Force heritage, visit <http://www.airforcehistory.af.mil>.

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